

THE

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Turkey Merchants

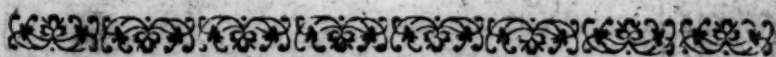
AND THEIR

TRADE

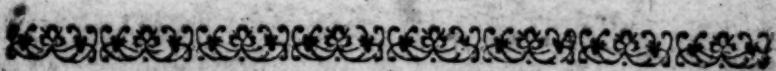
VINDICATED

From the Aspersions and unjust Re-  
proaches cast on them,

In several CASES and PAMPHLETS  
Published in the Names of the *Italian*  
Merchants.



*By a Merchant.*



Printed in the Year, 1720.

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AND THEIR

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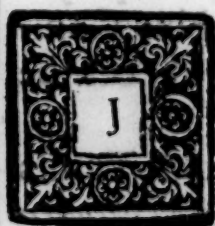
1720

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T H E  
**Turkey Merchants**  
A N D  
Their **TRADE** vindicated.



JUSTICE requires, that it should be observ'd in the very Front of this Work, and previous to what may be said afterward of the *Italian* Trade, that tho' in the Title 'tis observ'd that those Calumnies and Aspersions which are taken Notice of, and to be answer'd here, are indeed publish'd in the Names of the *Italian* Merchants, as if all the *Italian* Merchants were concern'd in the Question; yet there are indeed but a very few of them concern'd in it.

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They

They make some Pretences to good Usage and Civility in the Beginning of their Printed Papers, and speak as if they intended to treat the *Turkey* Merchants with Decency and good Manners; but descend afterwards to Rudeness and ill Language, even after they had prepar'd their Readers to expect the contrary.

But this the *Turkey* Merchants think worth no Notice; nor had this been said of it, but to note, how little they correspond with themselves in their Proceedings, and how little their Word is to be taken, who so apparently break it in Publick; but perhaps the Agent they employ'd run out in ill Language beyond his Commission, which is the only Excuse can be made for them.

They call one of their Printed Tracts on this Subject, *The Case fairly stated between them and the Turkey Company*; but the *Turkey* Merchants say the Case is not there *fairly* stated; nor is it *truly* stated; which is the Reason of this publick Way of Return, that others may not be prejudic'd in their Opinion, or suggest, that the *Turkey* Company are not able to justify their Conduct to the World, or to confute the best Argument their Enemies can bring



bring upon the Stage to support their Accusations.

That they have stated the Case unfairly, will best appear by going back to the Beginning of the Question, and stating it anew, so that the Reader may judge by the Lights that are given on both Sides, which has Right on their Side, and which not.

In Order to do this briefly and clearly, it will be needful to observe first the Charge which the *Turkey* Merchants bring against them; and enter a little way into the Proof of it, because they who affirm first, ought to prove first what they affirm.

Secondly, The Defence which the Advocate for the *Italian* Merchants brings, for as is said above, it cannot be allow'd, that the *Italian* Merchants themselves, or any considerable Number of them are concern'd in it.

In this last Head shall be taken some Notice of their unjust and unfair Recriminations upon the *Turkey* Company, and their Conduct as well abroad as at home; and something be offer'd to let the World see how unfair and groundless those Recriminations are,

The Substance of the *Turkey* Merchants Charge amounts to this in the General, That the *Italian* Merchants do import  
from

from *Leghorn*, *French Turkey-Silk*, that is *Raw Silk of Turkey, via Leghorn*; being the Effects of the *French Merchants* either directly from *Turkey*, but chiefly from *Marseilles*, in Return for the *Woollen Manufactures*, and other Product of *France*, or of Money sent from *France* to *Turkey*. That this is in short injurious to the *English Turkey Trade*, assistant to their Rivals the *French*, and fatal to the *Woollen Manufactures of Great Britain*.

All this lies upon the *Turkey Merchants* to prove, and the rather because the Advocate for the *Italian Merchants* denies the Fact, and puts the Proof of it upon them.

It happens very much to the Satisfaction of the *Turkey Merchants*, that they need go no further for the Proof of their Charge than to the *Italian Merchants* themselves, who grant as much as the *Turkey Merchants* insist upon, and so much as is sufficient to the Charge brought against them; as for *Example*

The *Italian Merchants* acknowledge, that the *Raw Silk* imported here *via Leghorn* in the Year 1715, 1716, and 1717. amounting to 1727 Bales was *French Raw Silk*, that is, *Raw Silk* brought to *France* by the *French Merchants*, our great  
Rivals

*Rivals in the Turkey Trade* in return of their Commerce to *Turkey*, and carried from *Marseilles* to *Leghorn*, in Order to be sent to *England*, as is already observ'd.

They acknowledge likewise, that the Reason of their sending this great Quantity of Raw Silk to *England*, was because of the Encouragement of a great Price, Silk being at that Time very dear in *England*.

They enlarge here on the Reasons which occasion'd the *French* Merchants to buy a great Quantity of Silk in *Turkey*, greater than ever before, and far greater than they could consume; and these Reasons are, *as they say*, 1. That the Treaty of Commerce in *England* was then on foot, and they expected an open Trade thither, so that they had in Prospect the Consumption of the Quantity, and a good Price. 2. The Alteration of their Coin, which gave Encouragement to convey away Quantities of this Bullion to a foreign Market.

But all these serve to prove and support the *Turkey* Merchants Complaint, *viz.* that the Silk then imported was *FRENCH*: The Fact is confess'd, and after the Enemies have granted it, no body can pretend to doubt it.

Let us then see which Way they come off



off of the Consequence, and this is indeed by a very weak Shift, *viz.* that this was an Accident, and can never happen again, and that the Silk which they usually import, is not *French*, but *Turkey* Silk, the needful Returns of their own Exportations to *Turkey*.

To take this roundly to Task, the *Turkey* Merchants have the Satisfaction to see them run on Ground by their own Argument; i. 'tis then granted that they did *once at least* import *French Turkey* Silk *via Leghorn*; but it was an Accident in Trade, and such an Accident, as, *they say*, can never happen again. This is begging the Question indeed, and that with this Misfortune in Contradiction of the supposed Impossibility of its happening again, *viz.* that indeed it is just happening again now; and is very probable to be the Case in the very Year that is before us; so that this strange unparallel'd Accident which cannot fall out again, is just now upon us: Which by the by is a Misfortune to the Opposers of this Argument, and shews how weak they have formed their supposed Impossibility of the Accident never happening again.

Now if the great Importation of Raw Silk in the Years 1715, 1716, 1717, amounting to 1726 Bales be confess'd to be



be *French*, and after all the great Demonstration, that this was by Accident; and that by such an Accident as that the like could never happen again, yet that the like is just now actually happen'd again, the *Turkey* Merchants have all they ask. What can more effectually Contribute to the entire Confuting these Men than this. (1.) That they are Confronted in *Matters of Evidence*: And (2.) That they are contradicted in *Matters of Fact*.

And upon this Article turns the whole of the Case, they say, 1. That it is not the ordinary Import of the Trade to Buy *French, Turkey-Silk*; but it was an extraordinary Accident; the *Turkey* Merchants take them at their Words, and add, that 'tis enough to them that it may be so, and has been so once by Accident; that 'tis against this Accidental Trade that they Petition for this Bill, because that Accident is not only likely to happen again, but in a considerable Degree has happen'd again just now as above; this the *Turkey* Merchants think is a just way of Arguing: But to Enforce it farther.

The *Italian* Merchants alledge, their ordinary Import of Raw-Silk from *Italy*, is not above 30 or 36 Bales a Year; suppose this be true also, the *Turkey* Merchants

chants then say that this proves what they Affirm, viz. That their Complaint is not against the Importing 36 Bales a Year, that cannot be suppos'd ; but that it has happen'd, that they often have Imported above 100 Bales in a Year ; and that in Particular, they Imported 1727 Bales in three Years, and 'tis against this extraordinary Importation that they apply for this Bill, because that however the *Italian* Merchants say, this can never happen again ; the *Turkey* Merchants say, it may happen again : If it never happens again, then a Law to prevent it can do no harm, and if it should happen again, such a Law to prevent it would do a great deal of good.

This takes off all the Trouble from the *Italian* Merchants of proving the Raw-Silk, which they Import here to be the Return of their own Estates sent to *Turkey* ; as they have kindly taken off the trouble from the *Turkey* Merchants of proving, that what was Imported before was from *France*. The *Turkey* Merchants Grant, that when there is but about 36 Bales a Year Imported from *Italy*, it may be the Return of the little Clandestine Trade carry'd on at *Leghorn* to *Turkey*, chiefly by *Jews* and Strangers ; and the *Italian* Merchants

Merchants grant, that when they Imported the large Quantity mention'd to be Imported in 1715, 1716, and 1717. it was from *France*.

Thus, much labour is sav'd of Affirming and Contradicting, Defending and Proving, and the Question is brought into a very narrow Compass.

What remains, seems to be chiefly to prove, that the like Accident of the *French* Buying up the Silk in *Turkey* may happen again, and is now likely to happen again, and Consequently the like Importation upon us in *England*, *Via Leghorn*, may be very likely to happen again, if not prevented by this Bill, and this will be the strongest Argument possible for passing the Bill.

The *French* Merchants are under the most difficult Crisis in their Commerce at this time, that has been known for many Years: The severe *Edicts* or *Arrets* for divesting them of all their ready Money, which is the Life of their Trade and the support of their Credit, is very heavy upon them; they that have Opportunity to Convey the Species abroad, do it whatever Hazards they run, and very great Quantities of Gold and Silver, as well Pieces of Eight as *Louis d' Or* in Specie



arrive at *Leghorn*, as well as at other Ports every Day.

They that cannot save the Species, but are forced to part with it for Bank Bills, having no faith in the publick Credit, vest those Bills in Cloth, at the great Manufactory in *Languedoc*, and Ship it away for the *Levant*.

The same Exigence of their Affairs which Obliges them to send their Estates abroad in this desperate Manner, Obliges them to Study all the Methods and Arts possible to keep their Estates abroad. Nay, tho' it should be to Loss, it must be done if possible; because whenever it comes home such are the Measures in that Country at this Time, that all must revert into Paper whatever they sell, and whatever they sell for, they can receive nothing but Paper.

Some use might be made of bringing the great Stock of the *Mississipi-Company* upon the Stage in this Case, and the Enterprizing Genius of Mr. LAW, to show how, when they think fit, to Launch out Two or Three Millions, on such a Design they might for want of this Bill, ruin our *Turkey Trade*, and drive our Merchants out of our own Markets as some Apprehend they are doing by the *Dutch Merchants*.



Merchants and others in their *East Country* Trade for Hemp, Iron, &c.

But there is no need to go to Mr. LAW and the *Mississippi-Company*, the *French* Merchants themselves in their single Capacities are sufficient to this Attempt, and may do it when they please, if this Bill should not pass. As for Example.

As some have their Money in Specie transmitted, tho' at the utmost Hazard to *Leghorn*, and others have vested their Bank Bills in Cloth, let us for the Purpose suppose both arriv'd in *Turkey*.

There is then but one thing for them to do, and that is the same which they did in the Year 1714. viz. Buy with their ready Money all the Silk that comes to the Market: No Man will question but if the *French* offer Money for the Silk, the *Turkey* and *Persian* Merchants, who bring that Silk, will take no more Cloth than they immediately want, and what Cloth is wanted, the *French*, who bring them so much ready Money, will have all possible Advantages and Opportunities to put off.

In this Case, what comes of the *English* Trade? If the *French* Buy the Silk with ready Money, the *English* will by meer Consequence have but a small Vent for  
their

their Cloth, which is sold chiefly by Barter for Silk, but no Man will barter with the *English*, if he can have ready Money for his Silk of the *French*.

Our *Turkey* Trade then sinks at once ; for if we can have no Silk, we can sell no Cloth ; that is to say, no considerable Quantity : For all the other Returns are trifling compar'd to the Silk ; neither is there any such thing as a Sale of Cloth for ready Money to any Quantity worth speaking of.

Besides supposing our Factors in *Turkey* gave another Turn to the Trade ; and the *English* Cloth could be sold there for Money, which however cannot be done ; yet even then, if the *French* can buy up the Silk, the Trade would sink, tho' the Money were in Cash ; because without the Silk there are no Returns to be had, no Exchange being negotiated there, to any Part of the World ; nor could it be brought in Specie, because of the Baseness of the Grand Seignior's Coin.

This effectually answers that main Objection of the *Italian* Merchants against the Charge of bringing in Raw Silk from *France*, viz. That it can only be done when the Price of Silk is high in *England*, and when there is a Scarcity at the *London* Markets

Markets, for let the Price of Silk be what it will at this time, or at any time, it is always in the Power of the *French* to make it dear at *London* for ; whenever they think fit to carry Money to Market sufficient to buy up the Quantity of Raw Silk in *Turkey*, it must of course be dear in *London*, and they may put their own Price upon us ; and if this Trade was to hold long, or this Accident to happen often, the *Turkey* Trade would be ruin'd, or reduc'd to the exporting of Bullion instead of the Woollen Manufacture, to the exceeding Comfort of the People concern'd in the Woollen Manufacture, and how much to the Loss and Disadvantage of *Great-Britain*, let others judge.

To prevent all these things, this Bill, or Clause of a Bill, was desir'd and petition'd for ; and whoever pleases to examine into the Circumstances of the Trade will see it is a Bill absolutely necessary to preserve the *Turkey* Trade, and the great ~~consumption~~ of our Woollen <sup>Consumption</sup> Cloths in that Part of the World.

The *French* it is evident have sent a great Quantity of Money to buy up Silk : If they get it, and cannot bring it hither, they will be then undone, and so our Trade will be secur'd and preserv'd ;  
if

if not, our *Turkey* Trade will be undone, and the *French* will enrich themselves at our Expence.

All the Recriminations of these Men upon the *Turkey* Merchants, are nothing to this Part of the Case, and indeed seem only raised as a Cloud of Dust to conceal the main Subject of Complaint: The *Turkey* Merchants are ready to submit every Branch of their Commerce, and every Part of their Conduct, to the Judgment of Parliament, and to answer all the Clamours of their Enemies in such a manner, as they doubt not will be to the Satisfaction of the Publick, either in Parliament or elsewhere; and it cannot justly be alledged, that they avoid the Trial of this, or endeavour to evade the Force of any Charge that is brought against their Actions, as a Company by their endeavouring to stick close to the Matter now before them.

But they insist upon it, that the Conduct of the *Turkey* Merchants in the carrying on their Business, either in their separate or conjunct Capacity, either abroad or at home, is no way related to their Complaint against the *Turkey* Raw Silk of *France, Via Leghorn*, nor can it be reasonably pleaded in Bar of this Bill: But as they



they are ready to answer to every Complaint when and where they meet with it, and before whatsoever Authority their Enemies think fit to complain; so they think they may, without any Impeachment of such Complaint, be allowed to hope for Redress of a known Grievance of which they have complained, and have made good their Complaint to the Satisfaction of the House of Commons; and without Redress of which, the whole Trade is in Danger of being destroy'd by the *French*.

This would also give Room here to turn back the Charge of a Monopoly upon their Enemies, and tell them, that if the Importation of *French* Raw Silk be not restrained, we put it into the Power of the *French* to monopolize both the Cloth Trade abroad, and the Silk Trade at home; for if they can buy up the Silk abroad, they can command our Market at home; and if they have the Silk, they have the Market for Woollen Cloths in their own Hands: And thus for fear of an imaginary Monopoly which neither had Possibility or Probability in it, we should run into a real Monopoly and that of the worst kind, *viz.* A Foreign Monopoly, Foreigners engros-  
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sing and thereby commanding the Market for Silk at home, and forestalling the Market for Woollen Cloth abroad.

The Parliament are judges whether these Dangers are real, and whether the Apprehensions of them are just ; and the *Turkey* Merchants have so far given them due Satisfaction, as that the Bill has already past the House of Commons, and the rest they leave to the Determination of the proper Judges : But this they say per advance, that this Bill puts a full Stop to all Possibility of these Things : Let the *French* buy up all the Silk in *Turkey* if they please, and try their Experiments with it ; nay, if the great Mr. *Law* with the utmost of his Skill, and the whole *Mississippi*, with the utmost of their Treasure, were to joyn in the Matter, if they cannot bring it to *England*, they can do us no hurt, nor themselves any good ; for unless their own Manufactures would take it off which we know they cannot, they have no other Vent in the World.

This Bill therefore is fully qualify'd to prevent this Danger, and in short is calculated for securing our whole Commerce to the *Levant*, for it secures the Silk that the *French* cannot engross it ; and by that Means *ipso facto* it secures, our Market  
for

for Cloth, which unless Silk could be had for the Return, would be worth no Man's while to send.

Having thus prov'd by the *Italian* Merchants own Confession, that the gross of the Raw Silk imported from *Leghorn* is from *France*, and that however accidental their importing such a Quantity as 1727 Bales in three Years might be, such another Accident is even now in View, and that more such Accidents may happen as often as the *French* think fit to buy up the Silk in *Turkey* with ready Money; let it be seen what they have farther to say.

The next Step they take, is with Submission a very strange one indeed, and scarce to be equall'd by any thing of the kind; from evading the Force of the *Turkey* Merchants Complaint about bringing in Raw Silk from *France, Via Leghorn*; They enter into a long Plea for the *Italian* Trade, which the *Turkey* Merchants are of Opinion is nothing at all to the purpose, and shall make it evident to be so by and by; but that which is particularly strange, in the Account they give of that Part of the Trade which is concern'd in this Debate, is this.

I. When they speak of their Trade to *Turkey*, it is exceeding *LARGE*.

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2. When they speak of their Returns of Silk, it is exceeding *SMALL*.

This as it discovers Weakness in the Performance, discovers however that they fly to Art in the Contrivance ; for if their Export to *Turkey* is so great, by what Skill in Commerce, unknown to the rest of the World, do they bring back their Returns. So much Cloth, so little Silk ! 'tis very strange.

Now the *Turkey* Merchants grant, that the *Italian* Merchants Import of Raw Silk is very small, that is to say, from *Turkey*; and had they brought in none but the bare Returns of their own Export in Cloth, these would never have disputed with them about it ; but they must be allow'd to say, that this confirms what the Bill provides against, *viz.* That the Gross of the raw Silk imported here from *Leghorn* is *French*, and is brought from *France* to *Leghorn* for that purpose.

If this had not been the Case, why had not the *Italian* Merchants mov'd, that whereas their Import of Raw Silk from *Turkey* was but small, not exceeding 36 Bales or 40 Bales a Year, they might have been allow'd to import such a Quantity of  
Silk



Silk for the preserving their Trade from *Italy* to *Turkey*, upon their giving necessary Security that no more should be brought in, they cannot doubt but they might have obtain'd an Exception for so small a Quantity.

But this would by no means have answer'd the End, which it is evident looks a great way farther, and which aims at no less than bringing in even all the Silk of *Turkey* upon us, if they can get a Price for it, under the Pretence of supplying the Market when Silk is wanting.

It might be regular to speak here of the Quantity of their Exports to *Turkey* from *Leghorn*, and if there be any thing which would confirm the Truth of what they alledge about their Silk, viz. that they import but 36 Bales a Year, it would be this, viz. that it agrees so well with what the *Turkey* Merchants alledge of their Export, viz. that they do not export to *Turkey* above 500 Cloths a Year, that whoever please to calculate the Value of both, will find, they come so near, as that one may confirm the other without any Difficulty ; and they who export 500 Cloths a Year, may be supposed to be able to import about 36 or 40 Bales of Silk a Year, not much over or under.

Thus

Thus far the Merits of their Cause is stated, which with the Reader's Leave may be summ'd up again in a very few Words thus.

The *Turkey* Merchants complain to the Parliament, that great Quantities of raw *Turkey* Silk is imported hither from *France Via Leghorn*, to the Prejudice of the *Levant* Trade, and pray the Clause in the Act of Navigation allowing that Importation, may be repeal'd.

The *Italian* Merchants oppose them, and insist, that tho' it is true a great quantity of Silk was so brought in from *France Via Leghorn* in the Years 1715, 1716, 1717, yet that was an Accident in Trade which can never happen again ; and that the *Italian* Merchants driving a very great Trade to *Turkey*, ought to be allow'd to import the Returns of their own Trade ; that except the Accident of the Years 1715, 1716 and 1717, as above-mentioned, the Quantity of Silk that they import into *England* is but small, tho' their Trade to *Turkey* is very great ; and that they do not *communibus Annis* bring hither above 36 Bales of Raw Silk in a Year.

From

From this kind of a Reply, by which the *Italian* Merchants do plainly confess the Fact, they go on to reflect upon the *Turkey* Merchants, their Conduct in the Trade as a Company, their mistakes which they call an exorbitant Use of their Priviledges, an Oppression upon other Trades ; complain of the Trade being limited by the Bye-Laws of the Company, in a manner destructive of the Trade in general, and injurious to private Persons in particular ; talk of a Monopoly, laying it open, and the like, things wholly foreign and remote to the Subject of the Bill, and consequently foreign and remote to the Question ; which is particularly concern'd, only to prevent the encouraging the Merchants of *France* encroaching upon the *Turkey* Trade, by giving them a Vent or Market for their Silk, the Returns of their *Levant* Trade, and without which, having not a sufficient Market for it at home, they could not carry on, or at least not encrease their *Levant* Trade.

To this the *Turkey* Merchants return, That as to the Complaints the *Italian* Merchants make against the *Turkey* Merchants of what kind soever, these are ready to answer them when, and as the Parliament shall appoint, and doubt not to justify

stify their Conduct to the full Satisfaction of the said Parliament ; but that in the mean time the Grievance they complain of being evident, the Fact confess'd by the *Italian* Merchants themselves, and the Consequences very threatening to the *British* Trade in general, and to the *Levant* Merchants in particular, they insist upon the present Case being determin'd, seeing it is now depending, and having offer'd themselves fairly to refute whatever the *Italian* Merchants can have to offer in their Defence, they think they have effectually done it.

This is the Sum of the Case as it exists in Fact, and as if the Advocate of the *Italian* Merchants had thought fit to have stated it fairly, as he pretended he should have represented it ; if any thing remains to be cleared up, it may come of course to be spoken to in the next Part.

## P A R T II.

**T**HE Dispute between the *Turkey* Merchants and the *Italian* Merchants, concerning the Importation of *Turkey* Raw Silk from *France*, being already stated and summ'd up in the former Part, stands by it self.

It



It follows now to look into the Clamours of the Persons who thus appear in Defence of the *Italian* Merchants, and to enquire into the Nature and Reason of their Recriminations upon the Company.

They are treated of here apart, and separate from one another, because speaking regularly they really subsist apart ; and however they are politically brought in together into one and the same Dispute by these Gentlemen in order to entangle and puzzle the Cause in hand, which is in it self clear and brief, as appears already, they have really no Coherence one with another : The Conduct of the *Turkey* Merchants is nothing to the purpose in the case of bringing in Raw silk from *France* : The Question is not whether the *Turkey* Company carry on their Business as they ought to do, or not, but whether the bringing the *French* Effects to a good Market in *England*, and encouraging their *Levant* Trade in Prejudice of our own, be what ought to be, or not.

But however since this separating the two Disputes, and distinguishing them one from another, does not please, but they pretend to suggest that the *Turkey* Merchants are backward to an Enquiry

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into their Conduct either abroad or at home ; and that they push this Matter to such a Height, as even to insult the *Turkey* Merchants upon that Head ; it may be necessary to examine what they have to say upon those Things, what Cause of Complaint they have, and how far the *Turkey* Merchants are or are not liable to censure in the manner they suggest ; that they may not run away with a Notion, or put it into the Heads of other People, that the *Turkey* Merchants are afraid to bring their Conduct to the Test, or that there is some great Crime to be charged upon them, that they would put off the Enquiry into ; The contrary to which shall immediately appear, and every Article they pretend to charge upon the *Turkey* Merchants, be fully canvass'd and examin'd.

To do this effectually, and clear the *Turkey* Merchants not only from any Backwardness to answer the Charge brought against them, but even to consult the Charge it self, it will not be amiss to take to pieces all the Heads of their Charge as they lie confusedly in their printed Papers, and speak distinctly to every one of them, to see if there is any Substance in the Facts charg'd, or whether

ther they are not really a Mass of suggested Mistakes only ; the *Igni Fatui* of a clamorous Set of Men, rais'd to amuse the Parliament, and divert them from the Search which they were upon, into a Grievance of Ten thousand times the Consequence of any of the other, tho' they had been true, as they really are not.

And first to begin where they begin : They set out, pag. 5. of their printed Pamphlet thus, speaking of the *Turkey* Merchants.

1. ' They pretend in their Papers, to advocate for the Good of their Country, against the Encouragement given by the *Italian* Merchants to the *French*, to sell their Cloth in *Turkey*, by taking off the Raw Silk, which is the Return ; whereas really, they are in their Capacity as a Company, the Reason of all the Encouragement the *French* meet with in the *Turkey* Trade ; and if it were not for the ill Conduct of the *Turkey* Company, the *French* would have no Silk to sell, nor vend any Cloth in *Turkey* worth naming.

2. ' They pretend, that the supporting the *Turkey* Company is the Interest of the Trade ; whereas their being a Company, in the Sense of their

‘ present Management, is the great  
 ‘ Obstruction of the Trade; and will,  
 ‘ if not restrain’d, be the Ruin of  
 ‘ it.

To this there requires no other Reply, than that ’tis roundly affirm’d indeed, that the Company are *the Encouragers of the French Trade, and the Obstructors of the English*, but not one Word is said to prove it; and therefore without entering into the Question how it can be true, as the *Turkey Merchants* affirm it is not, they only say, that no Proof being offer’d, it *stands for nothing*.

In the same Page they take upon them to charge the *Turkey Merchants* with Intentional Evil, which as first they cannot know; and therefore, 2. they cannot prove; so in effect, 3. it is not rational to suppose it can be true.

1. They say the *Turkey Merchants* aim at suppressing the *Italian Merchants* Trade to *Turkey*.

2. That they aim at engrossing the Trade of selling Silk in *England*, in order to imposing their own Price upon the Manufacturers of Silk in *England*. N. B. Tis observable, they only say they aim at them: So that



that they grant they have not effected either of them.

As it is upon this Supposition that they afterwards pretend to charge the Company with being, or rather intending to be, a Monopoly, it might have been expected the Ground-work or Foundation of the Charge should have been well prov'd and made clear, that no Objection might lie against the Charge, least the suggested Consequence should appear groundless; for it must be told them, that to suggest so boldly that the *Levant* Merchants aim at a Monopoly, a thing which is remote both from their Intention, and from their Interest, looks something malicious. *Monopoly* is a Word odious to Trade, and injurious to Property, and cannot be suggested upon Men, who, as Merchants, and as honest Men, Trade fair and above-board (under the Favour and Protection of a Government that abhors Monopolizing) without Scandal and without Injustice; and therefore such a Charge ought to have been very clearly proved before it had been publickly laid in Print, and presented to a House of Commons as this has been done.

On the contrary, here is, 1, nothing of Proof brought to support the Charge

Charge, which it must be own'd, is something wonderful.

2. The *Turkey* Merchants doubt not, *in a few Words*, to make it appear, that the Charge not only is not just, but is not Rational; and that they have, to take away all Pretences of such a Design, such Laws and Regulations established among them, as must effectually expose the very Suggestion of a Monopoly, and clear them from the Scandal, as of a thing impossible for them to engage in, and therefore improbable to be in their Design.

But before the *Turkey* Merchants enter upon their own Defence against what is charged upon them as a Company, it is needful to clear up the Reputation of the Bill it self, which stands loaded with as black a Charge as the Merchants do, and *is said* in so many Words, to be not only qualify'd to make the *Levant* Company a Monopoly, but to tend in its own Nature to a Monopoly.

This is strange indeed, and very much to say of a Bill that has passed so many Readings in the House of Commons, where all Monopolies have been, and ever will be abhorr'd and oppos'd: But let

us hear the Charge as follows, *Page 10,*  
from the Book mentioned before.

If this Bill in its Nature tends to making the Company a Monopoly; if it is evident, that in soliciting this Bill, they aim at a Power to Monopolize; if it appears, that this Bill, if pass'd, will put that Power into their Hands: Then, with humble Submission to the House, it is absolutely necessary to examine into the Abuse of the Power they have, and the Reason of the Power they seek, and of their seeking it, and all before this Bill be suffer'd to pass.

The *Turkey* Merchants may safely joyn Issue with them here, and their Plea will only run thus: If this Bill in its Nature does NOT tend to making the Company a Monopoly; if it is NOT evident, that in soliciting this Bill, they aim at a Power to monopolize; if it appears that this Bill, if pass'd, will NOT put that Power into their Hands, what then? Why it follows in their own Terms also, That then it is NOT absolutely necessary to examine into the use of the Power the Company have, OR the Reason of the Powers they seek, previous to the passing this Bill. It

It follows then, to defend this Bill from the Scandal of tending to a Monopoly; and this will be best done by Searching into its Nature and Original, because they say it has a Natural Tendency, &c. which the *Turkey* Merchants deny.

The Clause in the Act of Navigation, which this Bill is made to repeal, however the *Italian* Merchants take upon them to say, it was made for them, which by the way is a great Mistake, was really made in Aid of the *Levant* Merchants, at a Time when the Silk Manufacture being young in *England*, the Market at *London* might reasonably be supposed insufficient to take off the Quantity of Raw Silk, which the *Turkey* Trade obliged them to take.

The *French* having then a much greater Trade in Wrought silk, than they have now, occasioned by a free Exportation to, and Importation in *England*, for their Silk Manufacture; and having no Silk of their own, and but little Woollen Cloth of their own to sell in *Turkey*, all these Things joyn'd together, to make *Leghorn* be the chief Market where the *Turkey* Merchants carried their Silk, and the Merchants of *Marseilles* were then their Customers.

BUT



But that they might not be straitned in Case of having more Silk at *Leghorn*, as at sometimes it might happen, than the *French*, who were the Buyers, had occasion for; a Clause, or Proviso, in the Act of Parliament was made, to allow them to bring it to *England*, which otherwise they could not do from that Port.

How the *Italian* Merchants came to assume to themselves the Property of this Clause, that is hard to account for; nor do they shew any Proof of their Claim to it, since 'tis scarce probable that the Parliament would open a Back-door to a Trade, which was foreclos'd by a Charter, and which on many Accounts, it was found to be the Interest of the whole Kingdom to espouse; or that if they had done so, it was very likely it would have been introduc'd by some Preamble, showing the Reason of it as is usual in like Cases: But nothing of this appearing, the *Italian* Merchants have nothing but their own Authority to justify their Claim, and the World is left to judge whose Pretensions are most probable

The Original of the Clause being thus stated, 'tis evident there could be nothing of a Monopoly in that Part of the *Levant* Company's Trade, neither was there any

such thing possible at that Time, the chief Sale of Raw Silk from *Turkey* being then to the *French* Merchants, who were the chief, and almost the only Manufacturers of such Silk in those Parts of the World.

Process of Time has alter'd the Circumstances of Trade; the *French* have since that time planted *Mullberry-Trees*, improv'd the Silk Worms, and raise Yearly great quantities of Silk of their own.

They have likewise improved in the Woollen Manufactures, and by the Policy and Management of the famous Mr. *Colbert* have carried on a Work near *Nismes* in the Province of *Languedoc*, where they make a great quantity of Woollen Cloths for the *Levant* Trade, by which their Interest in that Trade is greatly improv'd and encreas'd.

Their Manufacture in Silk on the other hand is greatly decreas'd; their Exportation of Wrought Silks to *England* being clog'd with such high Duties as are equal to a Prohibition, all which Circumstances conspire together to lessen the Demand for *Turkey* Raw Silk in *France*, at the same time that the Course of their Trade obliges

bliged them to import a greater Quantity than they did before.

So that instead of the *French* Merchants coming from *Marseilles* to *Leghorn* to buy Raw Silk of the *English*, they are now obliged to carry great quantities of Raw Silk, (which they bring from *Turkey*) from *Marseilles*, where they have not a sufficient Demand for it, to *Leghorn*, to sell it there.

As if the *English* *Turkey* Merchants are not enabled to bring Silk from *Turkey*, they would be enabled to sell very little Cloth in *Turkey*; so by the *French* being assisted to sell their Silk at *Leghorn*, they are assisted in selling Woollen Cloths in *Turkey*, seeing if they have not a Market at Home for their Silk, and are not allow'd to sell it for the *English* Market, they will not be able to sell it at all, and consequently cannot take it in *Turkey*, or sell their Cloths there, which they sell in Barter for Silk.

This makes the Bill now mov'd for most highly Rational, indisputably Good for the Interest of the *Levant* Trade, for the Consumption of our Woollen Manufacture of Cloth, and perfectly calculated to discourage our Rivals the *French*: But not one Word of a Monopoly in all this,  
nor

nor has one Reason been offer'd why it should not be as useful to our own Trade, as it will be fatal to the *French*.

And here now is plainly discover'd the true and only Reason why the *Turkey* Merchants are, as those Writers of Cases say, \* *So very Earnest* for this Bill, and which they would represent as a great Mystery. The Reason is clear and justifiable to all the World, nor is there the least Mystery in it, *viz.* that they would have the *French* as much discouraged in their known Encroachments upon the *Turkey* Trade, as they can. This is the true, and the only Reason, and as they know nothing of any Secret, or reserv'd Design, so they protest against any Suggestions of such Designs, as false and groundless, and in themselves very unjust, if not malicious. Nor can any the least Proof, or even Probability of such Designs be made out, as shall be farther made appear in the Prosecution of this part of the Story.

Having thus clear'd up the Bill from the unjust Censure of the Advocates for the *Italian* Merchants. It comes in order

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\* *Their own Words, Page 13.*



order, to clear up the Design of the *Turkey* Merchants in pursuing it, and by this will appear the Necessity and Usefulness of the Bill it self.

The Reason of mentioning this again, after what is said already to prove the Reasonableness and Use of the Bill, is, that we may bring the Concessions of the *Italian* Merchants themselves, and the Case as Evidence to it; for nothing can be of more force in any such Dispute than the Testimony of the Enemy themselves. Take it in their own Words:

The Pretences of the Bill are specious, (*viz.*)

1. ' That the Raw Silk which the *Italian* Merchants import from *Leghorn*, is  
' *French*, and the Return for their  
' *French* Cloths sold in *Turkey*.
2. ' That the Quantity of the said Silk  
' imported into *England*, is very  
' great.
3. ' That it is injurious to the *Turkey*  
' Trade.

' If these Things were really so, every  
' Man should grant the Consequence at the  
' first Word, (*viz.*) that the Bill was ne-  
' cessary, which is what they alledge.

The *Turkey* Merchants have nothing to do but to prove, that the Pretences of the  
Bill

Bill are true, and that they think is sufficiently done by what is said before.

The Pretences of the Bill are just as they describe them (*viz.*) *That the Italian Merchants Import great Quantities of French, Turkey, Silk, Via Leghorn, and that it is injurious to the English Trade.*

The First Part they Own to be true, and Own the Quantity also; the last Part is apparent, so that the Consequence is just, and they have Confess'd it, What need we of farther Evidence? (*viz.*) *That the Bill is Necessary* \* See their Own Words.

The only shift these People have to come off of this, is to Deny the Fact. But in what Subtil and Equivocal Terms do they go about it? See their Words in the next Paragraph † *The Italian Merchants Deny that the Raw-Silk they NOW IMPORT from Leghorn into England, is Turkey Raw Silk brought from Marseilles to Leghorn.*

This is so naked a Subterfuge, that it amounts to no more than to let it appear plainly, that they Confess the Fact. The  
Turkey

\* Page 15. Paragraph 3.

† Page 15, Paragraph 5.

*Turkey* Merchants may allow whether it be so or not, without Injury to this Argument, that the Raw-Silk they N O W Import, N O W Anno 1719, when they have Imported but 36 Bales, may not be *French*, and what is this to the Argument? The *Italian* Merchant on the other hand Confess in all their Papers, that in the Years 1715, 1716, 1717; when they Imported 1727 Bales, or 529 Bales a Year, it was really *French*, and this is sufficient, since what has been may be; and that it may not be so again is the honest and simple Design of the Bill.

This, tho' it be a Repetition, was necessary here to Expose the Trifling, it were but just if it had been called shuffling of this Answer; the short of the Fact, to express it in Terms which cannot be Disputed, is, that their Ordinary Import of 36 Bales a Year, may not be *French*, because some Silk they may bring from *Turkey*, in return for the little Trade they carry on thither. But their Extraordinary Import cannot be their Own, because, as they know, their Trade is not able to return any thing like the quantity.

But this is all stated already in the First Part of this Work, and due Remarks made upon the Impotence of that  
Allega-

Allegation, (*viz.*) that what happen'd in the Year 1715 to 1717, as to bringing Silk from *France, Via Leghorn*, Bales 1727, was an Accident that can never happen again, and a hint that there is some reason to say, not only that it may happen again, but that indeed 'tis very likely to happen again, and that just now; the Circumstances of Merchants in *France*, at this time, making it very Reasonable to expect it.

The force of this part of the Argument has so prevail'd with these Gentlemen, to Despair of the Success they expected, that it seems they are bringing in a New Plea, something more specious than the first, tho' equally mischievous to the Trade; only that perhaps it may be better Calculated to conceal the Fraud, and the short of the Case is this.

They have Confess'd as before, that *French Silk* is brought into *England, Via Leghorn*. They find the Argument so strong against them, that this is Injurious to the *British Trade* Abroad, and to the Manufacturers at Home, that they cannot hope for any Success in pleading, to leave that Breach into our Commerce open to our Rival. They pretend therefore to Capitulate for Liberty only, to Import  
such



such Raw-Silk as is the Product of their own Exportation of *British* Goods to *Turkey*.

Had they acknowledg'd first, that they had no other Market for so little Quantity as that amounts to.

Or Had they come to a Point in Quantity, and ask'd Admittance for so many Bales as they really bring from *Turkey* such as 36 or 40 Bales a Year.

Or had they proposed any Rational Method how the Parliament should be assured they were not by this desired to make a Law to protect the Importation of that very *French* Raw Silk, which they purpos'd to exclude; in any of these Cases, another Answer would have been given.

But as first, They acknowledge, that *Italy* it self consumes a considerable Quantity of *Turkey* Raw Silk yearly, the *Turkey* Merchants add, that the quantity which the *Italian* Merchants say *Italy* consumes Yearly, is more than ever they the *Italian* Merchants did ever yet import to *Leghorn* from *Turkey* in a Year, so that having a Market upon the spot, the License of Importation to *England* is of no use to them, and cannot be desired but upon the Foot of some Clandestine Design.

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Secondly,

*Secondly*, Their not offering to confine themselves to a Quantity, serves to confirm the Suspicion; and a Grant of Quantity, tho' of no more than they really bring from *Turkey*, would not Answer, the Design lying another Way.

*Lastly*, The Method for ascertaining the Quality of the Silk seems impracticable; or to put it into plainer Language, no Method can be proposed that will be Effectual; nothing but the Oath of the Persons concern'd, which they must excuse the World for saying, is not more to be depended upon in *Italy* than in other Countries.

Witness in this Case, the *French* Wine, the *Capers*, and other Goods every Day Ship'd at *Leghorn* for *England*, and sworn to there, to be of the Growth of the Duke of *Tuscany's* Dominions.

What then are all these Pretensions, but so many Mines to blow up the *British*-Trade, and Betray it into the Hands of the Enemy? Contrivances to Join with and Betray the Commerce to *France*, for the meer Satisfaction of carrying on a Separate and Clandestine Trade to *Turkey*; enjoying all the Benefits and Advantages of the *Turkey* Merchants without their Difficulties and Expence; Trading under their  
Protection

Protection, but free from the Hazards and Discounts that the Trade is subjected to as carried on by a Company; Enjoying the Benefit of the Charter without the Charge of it, and then, like the Snake in the Fable, Hissing and Rising at the Hand that has Warmed and Nourished them.

This brings on, and may pass for an Introduction to the last Part of this Work.

### P A R T. III

**T**HE *Italian* Merchants having thus turn'd and twisted their Cause every Way they could to answer their End, and to Obtain if it be possible, the Continuance of a Law, which has been so apparently Injurious to the Trade and Manufactures of *Great-Britain*; and finding all their Attempts Fruitless and Ineffectual, they fall out in the next Place upon the *Turkey* Merchants, and upon their Conduct as a Company or Society.

The *Italian* Merchants are in this part of the Business a kind of Separate Traders to *Turkey*; and tho' as is just now Observed, they Trade under the Protection of the *Turkey* Merchants, who indeed are liable even for the Mistakes of those Interlopers,

if they offer at any time to Affront the Grand Seignior, or his Government, in *Turkey*, yet they do not scruple aiming openly at the overthrowing their Benefactor, and even betraying their Trade to the *French*.

To Cover this, and as is the Custom in other wicked Cases to extenuate one Offence by Committing another, they endeavour to justify their Interloping Trade, by falsely accusing the *Turkey* Merchants of Maleversation and corrupt Practices in the use of the Privileges which they enjoy as a Company.

It will not require much pains to clear up the Honour and Reputation of the *Turkey* Merchants, as a Society, from every thing those Men can Suggest against them, and therefore with as much Brevity as possible, every Part of the Charge shall be discuss'd.

*First*, The great Quarrel, at the *Turkey* Merchants, is, at their being a Company, and having a Charter with exclusive Privileges, &c. Were they an Exclusive Company with a Joint Stock, more indeed might have been to be said; No Man having then any Share in the Trade, but as he shar'd of the Stock, and the whole being carry'd on by Directors in a Joint-Stock, as is in the Case in the *East-India*,  
*African*-



*African - Company*, and several others; in that Case, some of the Charge of a Monopoly might have lain against them, but now it is impossible.

But as they are only a Society for the Support and Protection of their Trade, for the maintaining their publick Character at the Porte, and for entering into and supporting their Capitulations with the *Turks*, carrying on Negotiations for the good of the whole Body, and then Engaging to, and with the Grand Seignior, in such and such Conditions as are most needful for the mutual Safety of the whole: This clears them effectually from any Charge of private Engrossing the Trade to their Separate Advantage: Nor is it possible that their Trade can be carried on in any other manner than it now is: It might be true that if they were not a Company they might carry on their Trade with more Profit to themselves, that is to say, while Things were kept quiet at the Porte, but how long that would be, and what would be the Consequence upon every Dispute there, these are Questions the *Italian Merchants* will not undertake to Answer.

But to come to the Particulars of their Accusation. First, They Tax the ~~Italian~~ *Turkey* Merchants with making use of their Pow-

er to Oppress their Neighbours by Mults,  
by Arbitrary *By-Laws*, standing Orders,  
*and the like.*

This indeed, would be thought a sufficient Charge, if in every part of their Conduct they could not Defend themselves, answer effectually for themselves, and confute the Arguments brought against them.

The main of these Objections lye against some of the *Turkey* Merchants Regulations at Home, and some of their Orders Abroad. (1.) They say the Oaths impos'd upon the Freemen are intolerable and not to be born with; and therefore these Men chuse to Trade, *Via Leghorn*, which is deservedly call'd a *Clandestine Trade*, because they seek to avoid all just Burthens which the *Turkey* Merchants bear and Submit to, and yet Enjoy all the Advantages which those Merchants enjoy, that are subject to those Regulations: So that the Regulations which, as a Company, the *Turkey* Merchants are oblig'd to, are the Support and Protection of those who do not submit to them, but to Object against them, which is something hard, it must be confess'd.

And after all the Complaints which they make of those Regulations in general, yet when they come to Examine into the  
the

the Particulars, there is but one which they can lay any Stress upon as a Grievance, and this is, that the *Turkey* Merchants, as a Body, have upon the Occasions of the War, badness of Trade, or other Inconveniences, some times resolv'd to carry on the Trade, only in General-Ships; So that when at any time they did not think fit to Ship Goods for One Year or, more, as by their Advices from *Turkey*, or as on the Account above mention'd, they find Convenient, the whole Body of the *Turkey* Merchants are oblig'd not to Ship; and so a kind of Embargo is laid on the Trade.

This they call making a Monopoly of the Wollen Manufactures abroad, and pretend it is an Injury to the Woollen Manufactures at home.

Now tho' the *Turkey* Merchants might give a long and clear Account of the Reasons for these Limitations of Shipping, and for restraining Goods outward Bound; and why some times when a great Quantity of Cloth remains abroad at Market, did not think fit to Ship again, and so glut the Market with Goods, yet they chuse to answer these Men, by utterly overthrowing the Objection it self, and letting them know that this Limiting themselves



themselves from Shipping at the Pleasure of the Company is now superseeded, and a standing Order made by unanimous Consent, that once every Year all the *Turkey* Merchants shall have full Liberty to Ship to the *Levant*, and that it may reach the Case, particularly, if General Ships are not annually provided, every Member of the Company shall be and is at Liberty to Hire Ships of their Own or send by what Ships they please.

As those Ships are to go out Yearly, so they will be to come in Yearly, and as Cloth goes out, the Silk must come Home, and this, *they say*, is a full and sufficient Answer to all that has been or can be said to them about a *Monopoly*, for as they are no Joint-Stock; but every particular Member is at Liberty to Trade for his own Account, for how much he pleases; and this unlimited Quantity is also at full Liberty of being brought home Yearly as the Merchant pleases: What possible Capacity is here for a Monopoly, or what pretence for making private Gain one of another, which is the Consequence of all Monopolies?

The unrestrained Liberty of Shipping more or less, and bringing back more or less as the Merchant thinks fit, overthrows that



that great Point, which the *Italian* Merchants ~~seem'd~~ seem'd so much upon; and by which they seem'd to have some Advantage against the *Turkey* Merchants; for it is impossible that when Men have a Liberty of exporting and importing what they please, any Monopoly can be in the Case. *to dwell*

This removes all the false Pretences of the *Turkey* Merchants encouraging the *French* Trade, a Contradiction in it self, and never supported either by Reason or by Argument, but suggested on a Supposition of the *Turkey* Merchants raising of the Price of their Cloths in *Turkey*.

This also removes all the scandalous Things which the *Italian* Merchants would suggest about the not supplying the Markets in *Turkey* with Cloth, giving the *French* an open Market, not letting the Ships go, tho' there was no Cloth in *Turkey* for the Months of *August*, *September*, *October* and *November*, and the like; which tho' false in Fact and fairly confuted by the plain Account of the *Turkey* Merchants, which make it appear that there was no less than 6615 Cloths in their Factors Hands unfold, at the End of *November*, 1716. yet there is now no Need any farther to dispute the matter, since an entire Liberty of Shipping

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ing is ordered to be constant every Year as above.

This also takes away even the Foundation on which the *Italian* Merchants Trade ; that is to say, all the Foundation which they think fit to own ; for if they can now come in to the Company, and be assured, that they may once a Year ship for *Turkey* what Quantity of Goods, and upon what Ships they please ; What can they say, why they carry on a Trade by Way of *Italy*, except only that by this method they can be exempted from the extraordinary Expences which the *Turkey* Merchants are liable to, for the Support and Preservation of the Trade it self, which is a kind of Objection that in Trade seems something unnatural.

And what then is their new pretended Demand of a Clause of Exception ? What is it but to demand erecting an Independent Trade at the Expence of the *Turkey* Merchants, so that the *Turkey* Merchants shall be a Company, and no Company ; or in a Word, that they shall have the Load and Burthen of maintaining the Company, and the other have the Benefit of it without the Charge. It must be confessed the Cunning of this Proposal is not to be so much blam'd as the Honesty of it.

But

But it would be hard to give a Reason why they should obtain such a Thing, or, to speak plainly, how they could venture to ask it.

What would this be but a destroying even the *Turkey* Trade it self? And who wou'd be free of a Company, if the un-free Merchants shall be at Liberty to Trade with the Privileges that the Company maintain, and under the Protection of that very Charter which they pay nothing to uphold: This would be indeed the worst Way of *laying open* the Trade; for it would *lay it down* in a few Years, and then they might seek for a Trade where they could find it.

The remaining Articles which they charge upon the *Turkey* Merchants relate to their By-Laws, as they call them abroad, by which they impose Fines or Mulcts upon the *Italian* Merchants Trade, forbid their Factors selling for them, and the like.

In pursuing these Things, they treat the *Turkey* Merchants with some Rudeness, and in some Part with Want of Truth.

As to Mulcts and Fines which they charge the *Turkey* Merchants with laying upon their Trade, it is answer'd, if it had been true, they conceive it would be



nothing but what the World would allow to be just ; that if the *Italian* Merchants will encroach upon their Market, they should contribute to the Charge, and had this been 5 Dollars upon every Cloth, as the *Italian* Merchants have published, it might very well have been justified, and what they had both Power and Reason to demand.

But as the *Italian* Merchants know very well, that never any more than one Dollar *per* Cloth was taken of them, 'tis hard they should not so far return the Favour as to acknowledge the Truth of it, and not put 5 Dollars *per* Cloth instead of 5 Dollars *per* Bale, which is the most they ever paid.

And after all, if this Payment exacted, (as they call it) was an Oppression, if the ordering the *Turkey* Merchants Factors not to deal with them, or sell for them, a most reasonable and equitable Thing was an Oppression, and what the *Turkey* Merchants had not a Right to do, Why was Complaint never brought before? why did they not petition the House of Commons for Redress of those Hardships? why did they not exhibit Articles against the *Turkey* Merchants in Parliament, and bring them thither to shew Cause why these Things should not be redress'd? Why was not  
this



this done long ago, and by it self? Why not till the *Turkey* Merchants became Complainers? If the *Turkey* Merchants had been guilty of any Thing they could not answer; if they had been conscious of any Oppressions or unjust extending the Privileges of their Charter, they would never have been Aggressors in this Affair. It is not usual that the Offenders bring themselves before a Court of Justice; why then must this Complaint come in now? 'Tis consonant to no Form in the Proceedings of Justice to take Recrimination for a Defence, or to answer a Complaint with a Complaint. The *Turkey* Merchants are the Plaintiffs in this Cause; the Defendants ought to answer to the Charge, and if they have any Charge to lay, let them bring a Cross-Bill, and make the *Turkey* Merchants Defendants, in which Case they will not fail of being effectually and fairly answer'd, and the *Turkey* Merchants are ready to join Issue with them, on such Complaint when ever they please.

It might now be very much to the Purpose to enquire of these Gentlemen what Hardships are put upon them by this Bill. If the Quantity of Raw Silk they Import, is so small as 36 Bales a Year, why

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do they drudge so hard to secure that Trifle.

They alledge the *French* have sent but 36 Bales of Silk to *Leghorn* all the last Year, tho' they bring no Proof of it but an *Italian Portata*, which no body gives any Credit to: On the other Hand the *Turkey* Merchants prove in the *Appendix* to this Work 337 Great Bales in one Year, which is equivalent to 500 Bales.

But to return to the Question, What Hardships does the Bill now depending put on the *Italian* Merchants, that they make such loud Complaints? This Bill restrains them from nothing but Raw Silk and Mohair-Yarn; if they sell so great a Quantity of Silk in *Italy* as they must do if their Returns from *Turkey* are so large, and their shipping to *London* so small, they may certainly sell the rest there if they think fit.

Besides, all the other Markets of the World are left free for them, but *London*; and this only restrain'd on Account of the bringing in Silk from *France* which it is impossible to prevent if any Silk at all may be brought to *England* from *Italy*.

If it was worth answering, enough might be said to a Pretence of Complaint, that the *Turkey* Merchants will not give Credit in *Turkey*. When other Merchants have had the

*Turkey*  
*Raw*  
*Turkey*  
*Raw*

the same Experience and Loss by Trusting; they will see plainer into the Reasons why the *Turkey* Merchants have altered their measures; and as<sup>to</sup> the *French* giving Credit; in Brief, they answer, they that take Credit, may give Credit: They can generally venture with more Ease than our Merchants, because when they lose they can run away with more Ease than ours can, as was seen when 300 of them broke in one Year.

*F I N I S.*

